

In the claims:

1. (currently amended) Apparatus for facilitating installation of siding comprising:

a tool having:

a first longitudinal member; and

a support member coupled with the first longitudinal member, the support member being movable relative to the first longitudinal member in a first mode and securably positioned relative to the first longitudinal member in a second mode

for temporarily supporting a first piece of siding via the support member in the second mode against a structure by suspending the tool from the second piece of siding with the longitudinal member, said tool being removable after said first piece of siding is at least partially secured to said structure by moving the support member relative to the first longitudinal member in the first mode.

2. (currently amended) The tool of claim 1 wherein the support member includes a seat, a base, and a seat support coupled with the base such that operating the seat support reconfigures the tool from the second mode to the first mode ~~wherein the tool is further usable for temporarily supporting a second piece of siding against said structure by temporarily securing the tool to the first piece of siding.~~

3. (currently amended) The tool of claim 2 wherein the ~~tool comprises~~ a first longitudinal member includes with a hook at one end, the hook being operable for temporarily securing the tool to the first piece of siding by placing the hook over the top edge of the first piece of siding.

4. (currently amended) The tool of claim 3 wherein the seat support includes a lever and tool  
~~comprises~~ a second longitudinal member for temporarily supporting the second piece of siding.
5. (currently amended) The tool of claim 4 wherein the ~~tool~~ first longitudinal member comprises  
a handle section with a roller to facilitate positioning, insertion, and removal of the tool without  
marring the siding.
6. (currently amended) The tool of claim 5 wherein the base is both slidably movable and  
securable with respect to the first longitudinal member, whereby the tool is adjustable to control  
the exposure of a previously installed piece of siding relative to the piece of siding being  
temporarily supported.
7. (currently amended) A tool for facilitating the installation of siding comprising:
- a first longitudinal member with a hook at one end, the hook for temporarily securing the  
tool to a first installed piece of siding by placing the hook over the top edge of the first piece of  
siding;
  - a second longitudinal member coupled to the first longitudinal member for temporarily  
supporting a second piece of siding;
  - a handle section coupled to the first and second longitudinal members to facilitate  
positioning, insertion, and removal of the tool; ~~and~~

an adjustable ~~seat~~ base for controlling the longitudinal position of the first longitudinal member relative to the second longitudinal member to control the exposure of the first installed piece of siding relative to the second piece of siding being temporarily supported; and

a seat operable to support an edge of the second piece of siding in a first position, and movable independent of the first longitudinal member so that the seat does not support the second piece of siding in a second position.

8. (currently amended) A method of installing siding on a structure including the steps of:

employing a tool for temporarily supporting a first piece of siding against the structure, said tool being removable after said first piece of siding is at least partially secured to said structure, the tool including a first portion that is temporarily securable relative to the structure and a second portion that temporarily supports the first piece of siding, where the second portion is independently movable relative to the first portion, thereby facilitating removal of the tool.

9. (original) The method of claim 8 further including the step of using the tool to temporarily support a second piece of siding against said structure by temporarily securing the tool to the first piece of siding.

10. (original) The method of claim 9 wherein the step of using the tool to temporarily support a second piece of siding includes the step of placing a hook that resides on one end of a first longitudinal member of the tool over the top edge of the first piece of siding.

11. (original) The method of claim 10 wherein the step of temporarily supporting a second piece of siding against said structure includes the step of placing the second piece of siding between the structure and a second longitudinal member portion of the tool.

12. (original) The method of claim 11 further comprising the step of using a handle section of the tool to facilitate positioning, insertion, and removal of the tool.

13. (original) The method of claim 12 further comprising the step using an adjustment exposure portion of the tool to adjust the exposure of the first piece of siding relative to the piece of siding being temporarily supported.

14. (original) A method of installing siding on a structure comprising the steps of:

temporarily securing a tool to a first installed piece of siding by placing the hook residing at one end of a first longitudinal member of the tool over the top edge of the first piece of siding;

temporarily supporting a second piece of siding by placing the second piece of siding between the structure and a second longitudinal member on the tool coupled to the first longitudinal member;

using an adjustable seat on the tool for controlling the longitudinal position of the first longitudinal member relative to the second longitudinal member to control the exposure of the first installed piece of siding relative to the second piece of siding being temporarily supported;

at least partially securing the second piece of siding to the structure;

using a handle section of the tool coupled to the first and second longitudinal members to remove the tool.

